

REMARKS

Below, the applicant's comments are preceded by related remarks of the examiner set forth in small bold font.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 1 recites "the third node" in the last line. Applicant may have meant "the third node device " in stead of Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claim Rejections -35 USC§112

3. Claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 6 and 8 recite the limitation "the node ID information" in claim 6's first line and claim 8's 2nd line. In the parent claim 1, there is one node ID information identifying the second node device and there is another node ID information identifying the third node device. Applicant needs to specify which node ID information is being referring to here.

Claims 6 and 8 have been amended.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §102

7. Claims 9-11, 14-16, and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hewitt et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,865,618).

Claim Rejections -35 USC 8 103

10. Claims 1, 3-8, 17-25, and 27-30 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Frazier (U. S. Patent No. 6,499,066) and Hewitt.

11. Claims 12-13 rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Hewitt and Amberg et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,664,221).

Hewitt et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,865,618) was filed on March 29, 2002.

The current application was filed on December 20, 2001. Therefore, Hewitt is not prior art to the current application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed.

However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

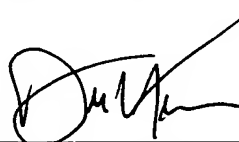
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Respectfully submitted,



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